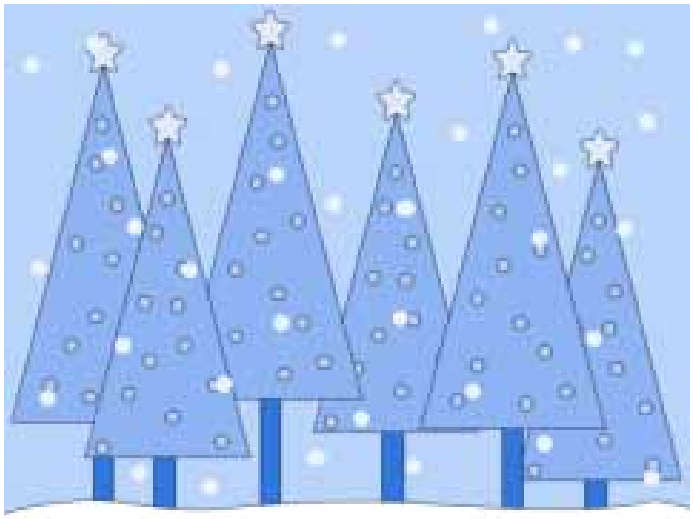
www.wvara.org December 2017

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association



Holiday Party - Pot Luck

Wednesday December 13
Setup Begins at 6:00pm
Dinner at 7:00pm

At Our Regular Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose

More Information on Page 3

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	**Frequency**	**PL**
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html .

President's Letter

Retirement

I have been WVARA president since January 2014 and am now turning the job over to Bobby, K0XI. I'd like to look back over the four years and review what has happened.

We ran a lot of operating events, and they have grown in attendance and number. Our old standbys are the regular Tuesday evening repeater net, Field Day, the summer picnic (aka the North American QSO Party), and the California QSO Party. We have added some of the ARRL VHF contests as well. Some members have made the 7 Region QSO Party a part of their

radio lives and others regularly activate Summits On The Air (SOTA).

We continue to operate the food and drink stand at one of the ASVARO Electronics Flea Markets at De Anza collage. It is our major annual fund raiser.

In addition to many interesting speakers, we have had a couple of equipment building evenings during our regular meetings.

We now have an Internet linked repeater set up at the hospital next to the W6PIY repeaters thanks to Dave WB6KHP.

As president, my job boiled down to running meetings, talking with members, and talking with people outside the club. My usual answer to suggestions was and is, “Gee, that sounds like fun. Why don’t we try to make it happen. I’ll be glad to help.”

We have been very lucky to have many volunteers that help keep the club running. Dave, Kevin, Chuck, Svend, and probably a few others keep our repeaters running. Kevin runs our Tuesday evening net.

The Red Cross provides us with a meeting space, and George acts as our liaison with them. Kevin brings sodas to our meetings and Anita’s wonderful chocolate chip cookies regularly appear, even when Phil can’t bring them himself.

Jim lead our field day team for many years, but this last year, with Jim’s help, Bobby and Bill stepped in to do the major organization. There are many other volunteers to thank for this effort. We have experts, lead by Svend, who set up antennas. Our band captains and GOTA staff all deserve mention. Without our operators, some of whom are only seen at field day, there wouldn’t be any contacts. And there are some wonderful volunteers who make food appear as if by magic. It is no accident that again this year we were number four in the nation, first in California.

Tom, Peri and I were the first in the club to be active in the California QSO party (CQP), many others, including Jim, Svend, and Greg, have made major contributions to more recent ones. Bobby and Bill lead our most recent county expedition. This event is like a mini-field day, but is a longer journey from the Bay Area with fewer antennas and operators. It requires volunteers who make it happen and operators who can work at or below freezing. Bill introduced linked N1MN loggers at CQP and we also used them at Field Day. The linking provides an overall view of how we are doing.

Bobby has also lead several efforts in the VHF contests as we all learn about an entirely different type of operation.

The summer picnic has food, radios, antennas, and a contest to play in. My list of people who contributed includes: Jim, Kent, Kevin, Tom, Phil, Anita, and Bill Ashby. I’m probably missing a bunch of you.

Our officers and directors keep the nuts and bolts of the club working. We have a committee which helps identify speakers for our meetings, but Jim and Bobby handled the details of contacting them and setting the schedule. Jon and Peri kept the bills paid and the books in order. Scott and Jon handled the secretary’s duties. Thanks to Phil, this newsletter appears every month. Thanks to Larry, our web site stays up to date. All of these people made my job as president fun and easy.

I thank all the volunteers for helping make this club successful. We only succeed because individual members think of interesting things to do and make them happen. We are always interested in new ideas so please step forward and help us have fun.

Next year Bobby, K0XI will be taking over as president and Bill, W9KKN as vice president. The other officers, Jon and Peri, continuing in their roles. I know they will do an excellent job and I look forward to helping them.

I've had a lot of fun as president. Being president has helped me grow as a radio operator as well as get to know a lot of really nice people. It has been a joy and privilege to serve as your president. I will continue to serve the club in the past president position on the board and whenever I can lend a hand.

73 Bill AE6JV

WVARA Holiday Party

Our annual WVARA Holiday Party and Raffle is this Wednesday evening, December 13. Set-up will begin at 6:00pm, with dining at 7pm. This will be at our usual meeting place: the Red Cross Building on 2731 N. First Street in San Jose.

This is a pot-luck, so bring a main dish, side dish, salad, soft drinks, or dessert. (Feel free to post what menu-item you are bringing on the WVARA_Chat Reflector.)

Hope to see you there!

New Members

The following new members joined WVARA recently:

Robert Reininger, Jr, AF6OX

Roger Young, KM6NTY

Hadley So, W6LKK

Welcome!!!

160 Meter 2017 Contest by Jim Peterson, K6EI

This was the second year that I operated QRP from a cabin located at the end of a peninsula on Loon Lake, Washington. The topography of this location has real potential for great propagation since the cabin is located on top of a 90ft hill surrounded by lake to the north, east, and south. My antenna was a 160m dipole with its feedpoint up 60ft in a pine tree – so it had an effective height relative to the local terrain of about 150 feet.

Loon Lake is north of Spokane near the borders of Idaho and Canada. Needless to say, accessing the cabin requires driving a mile on a non-maintained dirt road which can be tricky when the snow gets deep. Fortunately, there wasn't any snow on the ground when I arrived this year.

I used my Elecraft KX3 with a PX3 spectral pan display. I'm generally an old-school operator, and this was the first time I've used a pan adapter during the 160 meter contest. I'm hooked – using the waterfall display to visually scan the band was a great improvement over my traditional method of operating.

Like last year, I could hear really, really well for most of the contest, which was a real pleasure. Band conditions this year were reasonably good with an A index of 8. The catch was that

around 5am Saturday morning the local power line noise kicked in and raised the noise floor about 10 dB (rising from -90 to -80dbm). While not the end of the world, this certainly had an impact on my ability to copy some of the weaker signals. And with incoming snow predicted to arrive Saturday evening, I decided to pack up my gear late morning on Saturday and return to town before the private road to my cabin became impassible.

Since I was running QRP, my transmit signal wasn't big — which meant that 90% of the folks that I could hear couldn't hear me. Even though the dipole at Loon Lake was physically high (~150 feet above local terrain), on 160 meters this antenna was functionally an NVIS (near-vertical incidence skywave) antenna with not much power emitted at the lower elevation angles. My signal was strong into Oregon and Idaho, but working the East Coast was a real challenge.

Next year I definitely intend to replace the dipole with an inverted L and maybe a separate receive antenna further back in the woods where it will be farther from the power line.

The view from my cabin at Loon Lake, WA (before the snowstorm).

FARS Annual Winter Banquet - January 19, 2018

We have been invited to join the Foothill Amateur Radio Society (FARS) for their annual winter banquet on **Friday, January 19, 2018** at Michael's restaurant in Shoreline park. Many WVARA members attended the event last year and had a lot of fun.

The speaker, Mike Adams, has been a radio personality and film maker. Currently he is professor emeritus of radio, television, and film at San Jose State University.

$1,500 in raffle prizes will be given away. The banquet is open to all hams and significant others.

The FARS web site has a banquet page at http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet. Signups can be either online, using Paypal/credit card, or by USPS mail. All sign-ups should be received by 6:00 PM on January 15th. Mailed sign-ups should be posted by January 12th to be received on time.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)						
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM						
Call Sign	**Name**	**11/07/17**	**11/14/17**	**11/21/17**	**11/28/17**	**12/05/17**
Total		**11**	**15**	**12**	**10**	**14**
AB6XS	Kevin		X			
AE6JV	Bill	X	X	X		X
AF6AE	Bill		X	X	X	X
AG6YO	Kevin		X	X	X	
AI6NT	Henry	X	X			
KC6ZKT	Steve		X	X		
KE6MT	Rex					X
KE6ZOV	Scott					X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X			X
KI6SLX	Peri	X	X	X		X
KJ6WH	Brian		X		X	X
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	X	
KK6HPF	Ross			X		
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6DAC	Cameron			X		
N6FYR	Matt	X			X	X
N6KZV	Jeff					X
N9CU	Andy	X			X	
NU6P	John					X
W6ESL	Tom		X	X	X	
W6IA	Mark	X	X	X	X	X
W9KKN	Bill	X				X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X		X	X
WC6YJ	Clay		X	X		

Treasurer's Report

No financial Reports for Nov. The only activity has been dues receipts. There is an outstanding payment due to NARCC which will be made soon. There will also be some expenses for the Holiday party. These anticipated expenses were all budgeted, and we have more than enough to cover them. Year end reports will appear in the January Heterodyne. My apologies for the lack of current reports. Seasonal madness has caught up with me. Speaking of which, don't forget the Holiday Party, in place of the meeting this Wednesday. I will be there collecting 2018 dues (which are payable before New Years, and payments for the new Mugs. This will be your last opportunity to order a mug at the current price ($12). See WVARA.ORG for details.

My current mug list, shows one each for

Tom Dunbar, W6ESL
Mark Sayre, W6IA
Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Stan Dye, KC6XE
Bill Ashby, N6FFC
Greg DesBrisay, N6GD
Jim Peterson, K6EI
Bill Frantz, AE6JV
Peri Frantz, KI6SLX
Jon Kelly, K6WV
Clay Couger, WC6YJ
Nate McCauley, KM6AZI
Bob Froger, K0FRG
2 for Kevin Smith, KK6VF

Let me know if I got any of this wrong.

Additionally, I plan to have a BOD proposed budget ready for approval in Jan or Feb, depending on when the BOD meets.

Lastly, I need current e-mail addresses for Bob Reininger, AF6OX, who joined in Nov., and Brian Goldberg KG6BKI, who rejoined. Brian's on-file address bounces. Send this info to treasurer@wvara.org.

See everyone at the Party, Peri

Peri Frantz
KI6SLX
WVARA Treasurer
treasurer@wvara.org

2017 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

President: Bill Frantz, AE6JV
Vice President: Bobby Barnett, K0XI
Secretary: Jon Kelley, K6WV
Treasurer: Peri Frantz, KI6SLX
Directors:
John Glass, NU6P, 2016-2017
Bill Fehring, W9KKN, 2016-2017
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP, 2016-2017
Jim Peterson, K6EI, 2017-2018
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB, 2017-2018
Kevin Smith, KK6VF, 2017-2018

The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

Club Web Page: http://www.wvara.org
Heterodyne Editor: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Internet Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Meeting Refreshments: Kevin Smith, KK6VF
Repeater Trustee: Chuck Kamas, AD6CL
Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF

Speaker Committee:
John Glass, NU6P
Scott Emery, AD6RY
Jim Peterson, K6EI
Jon Kelley, K6WV
Phil Verinsky, W6PK

DX Special Interest Group:
Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

Club address:
West Valley Amateur Radio Assn
P.O. Box 6544
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

73